Mr. Computer

One day in 1965, when I was a librarian at View Ridge School in Seattle, a fourth grade teacher came to me. She told me she had a student who always finished his work before the others and needed a challenge. "Could he help in the library?" she asked.
I said, "Send him along." Soon a 10 sandy-haired boy in jeans and T-shirt appeared. "Do you have a job for me?" he asked.

I told him about the special system for placing books on shelves. He picked up the idea right away. Then I told him that some books seemed to be missing or overdue, but had probably simply been placed on the wrong shelves. "Is it a kind of a detective job?" he asked. I answered "yes," and he immediately became interested in the project.

He had already found three of the missing books when his teacher opened the door and said, "Time for recess!" He argued that he wanted to finish the job; she argued that he needed fresh air. She won the argument.

The next morning, he arrived early. "I wanted to finish finding those books," he said. At the end of the day, he asked to be a librarian on a regular basis. Of course, I agreed.

One day, after the boy had been working in the library for a few weeks, I found a note on my desk, inviting me to dinner at his home. At the end of a pleasant evening, his mother said that the family would be moving to a different school district. Her son was concerned about leaving the View Ridge library. "Who will find the lost books?" he asked.

When the time came, I was sorry to say good-bye. He was no ordinary kid. His readiness to work hard made him special.

I missed him, but not for long. A few days later he popped in the door and joyfully said, "The librarian over there doesn't let boys work in the library. My mother got me transferred back to View Ridge. My dad will bring me here on his way to work. And if he can't, I'll walk!"

I should have known that a young man who had such determination would succeed in whatever he did. However, I could not have guessed then that he would become the computer wizard of the Information Age: Bill Gates, owner of Microsoft and America's richest man.

About the Story

1. The teacher brought the student to help in the library because..

    a. he wanted to be a librarian when he grew up.

    b. he was disturbing the other students in class and she wanted him out of class.

    c. he was quicker than the other students and needed something to do.

    d. he wanted to be able to read all the books in the library.

2. The librarian said that the missing books were..

    a. probably overdue

    b. interesting

    c. probably on the wrong shelves

    d. special

3. Complete the *following* sentence.

The boy became interested in doing the job because _____

_____

4. What did the boy want to do when the teacher came to call him for recess?

_____

5. What happened when the teacher won the argument?

_____

6. Why did the boy arrive early the next morning?

_____

7. Why was the boy worried about moving to a new school?

_____

8. Why did the librarian think the boy was no ordinary kid?

_____

9. Why was the boy happy when he popped in the door?

_____

10. What couldn't the librarian know about the boy's future?

_____

Vocabulary

1. Which word in lines 1-5 means a person who works in a library?

_____

2. The words picked up the idea right away in lines 13-14 mean..

    a. took it in his hand straight away

    b. learned quickly

    c. liked the idea at once

    d. lifted up the books quickly

3. Which word about books in lines 10-15 means not returned on time?

_____

4. Which word in lines 20-25 means worried? _____.

5. Which word in lines 25-30 means happily? _____.

6. Which word in lines 30-35 means strong will? _____.